



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/696,916	10/30/2003	William Y. Lai	MS#303478.01 (5077)	8207
38779	7590	09/11/2006	EXAMINER	
SENNIGER POWERS (MSFT)			LEE, WILSON	
ONE METROPOLITAN SQUARE, 16TH FLOOR			ART UNIT	
ST. LOUIS, MO 63102			PAPER NUMBER	
			2163	

DATE MAILED: 09/11/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/696,916

Applicant(s)

LAI ET AL.

Examiner

Wilson Lee

Art Unit

2163

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 22 June 2006.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-38 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-38 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 10/30/03, 2/3/06
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
- 6) ☐ Other: _____

Response to Argument

Applicant's argument is found persuasive accordingly restriction requirement has been withdrawn and all claims are examined.

Claim Objections

Claim 28 is objected because of the following informality:

In claim 28, "effecting the delivery comprises" should be deleted because of duplicated limitation.

Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. 112

The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

Claims 19-22, 32-38 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

In claim 19-22, "One or more computer-readable media" is vague because it is not clear whether it is plural or singular means.

In claims 32-38, "Web service" is not consistent with the definition of the claims that refer to a system. "Web service" refers to a business method invention which is classified in a different search class.

Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

Art Unit: 2163

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

Claims 1-38, in best understood are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Horvitz et al. (US 2003/0131142) cited in IDS.

Regarding Claim 1, Horvitz discloses a system for processing a notification, said system comprising:

- a memory area (522) to store a notification received from a third-party content provider (531-534), said notification comprising routing information and content, said routing information including a broadcast alias;
- one or more computing devices (508) to enable delivery of the stored notification to a plurality of users based on the broadcast alias; and
- a computer-readable medium (110) storing computer-executable instructions (within 130) to be executed on each of the computing devices to access the stored notification, determine a list of users associated with the broadcast alias for receiving the stored notification, and deliver the stored notification to the determined list of users (See paras 0005, 0036, 0161).

Regarding Claim 2, Horvitz discloses that the plurality of computing devices comprises a master router (504) and a plurality of worker routers (503), said master router to associate the stored notification with one of the plurality of worker routers.

Regarding Claim 3, Horvitz discloses that the memory area (522) comprises a plurality of databases (context sources).

Regarding Claim 4, Horvitz discloses a computer-readable medium (110) having stored thereon a data structure (metadata), said data structure being associated with an application programming interface (121) (See Figure 1 and paras. 0037, 0169-0171), said data structure comprising:

- a broadcast list identifier (subscription identifier) (see para. 0161) associated with the broadcast alias; and
- a list of users (millions users receive information. See paras. 0005, 0036) associated with the broadcast list identifier.

Regarding Claim 5, Horvitz discloses a broadcast list table to associate the broadcast list identifier (subscription identifier) inherently with a member table, said member table to store the list of users associated with the broadcast list identifier (See paras. 0005, 0036, 0161).

Regarding Claim 6, Horvitz discloses that a user profile database (514, 516) to store user routing preferences, wherein the instructions, when executed by the computing devices route the stored notification to the users on the determined list based on user routing preferences corresponding thereto stored in the user profile database (See Figure 5).

Regarding Claim 7, Horvitz discloses that the instructions, when executed by the computing devices (508), deliver the stored notification by sending the stored notification and the determined list of users to a third-party gateway (531-534), said

third-party gateway to deliver the stored notification to each of the users on the determined list (See Figure 5).

Regarding Claim 8, Horvitz discloses a method for processing a notification, said method comprising:

- receiving a data packet representing a notification, said data packet comprising routing information, said routing information including a broadcast alias (users receive information. See paras. 0005, 0036);
- determining a list of recipients (users receive information. See paras. 0005, 0036) associated with the broadcast alias to receive the data packet (requested information); and delivering the received data packet to the determined list of recipients.

Regarding Claim 9, Horvitz discloses populating an activity queue with the received data packet (See para. 0060, 0063, 0067).

Regarding Claim 10, Horvitz discloses accessing the activity queue to obtain the stored data packet (See para. 0060, 0063, 0067).

Regarding Claim 11, Horvitz discloses determining the list of recipients (users who receive information. See paras. 0005, 0036) comprises:

- retrieving a broadcast list identifier (subscription identifier) from a broadcast list table via the broadcast alias (See paras. 0005, 0036, 0161); and
- identifying one or more recipients associated with the broadcast list identifier by accessing a member list table (inherent feature that obtain the user's names), said one or more recipients representing the list of recipients.

Regarding Claim 12, Horvitz discloses receiving the data packet comprises receiving the data packet including time-sensitive content (e.g. stock price, traffic jam) (See para. 0158, 0168).

Regarding Claim 13, Horvitz discloses that delivering the received data packet comprises sending the received data packet and the determined list of recipients (users receive information. See paras. 0005, 0036) to a third-party gateway (531-534) for delivering the received data packet to each of the recipients on the determined list.

Regarding Claim 14, Horvitz discloses that delivering the received data packet to the determined list of recipients (See paras. 0005, 0036, 0161) comprises delivering the received data packet to computing devices associated with each recipient on the determined list.

Regarding Claim 15, Horvitz discloses that the computing devices include one or more of the following: a cellular telephone, a pager, a handheld computing device, and a smart personal object (See paras. 0004, 0005).

Regarding Claim 16, Horvitz discloses delivering the received data packet comprises delivering the received data packet via one transport medium (e.g. email) (See paras. 0004, 0005).

Regarding Claim 17, Horvitz discloses that the transport mediums include one or more of the following: electronic mail, instant messaging, and mobile short-message service messaging (See paras. 0004, 0005).

Regarding Claim 18, Horvitz discloses one computer-readable media (system in Figure 5) having computer-executable instructions for performing the method recited in claim 8.

Regarding Claim 19, Horvitz discloses one computer-readable media having computer-executable components for processing a notification, said components comprising:

- an interface component (506) for receiving a data packet representing a notification, said data packet comprising routing information, said routing information including a broadcast alias;
- an address component (See paras. 0005, 0036, 0161) for determining a list of recipients associated with the broadcast alias to receive the data packet; and
- a broadcast component (510) for delivering the received data packet to the determined list of recipients.

Regarding Claim 20, Horvitz discloses that the address component determines the list of recipients by retrieving a broadcast list identifier (subscription identifier) (see para. 0161) from a broadcast list table via the broadcast alias and identifying one or more recipients associated with the broadcast list identifier by accessing a member list table (inherent feature that contains the names of users or subscribers), said one or more recipients representing the list of recipients (See paras. 0005, 0036).

Regarding Claim 21, Horvitz discloses that the interface component receives the data packet having time-sensitive content (e.g. stock price, traffic jam) (See para. 0158, 0168).

Regarding Claim 22, Horvitz discloses that the broadcast component (510) delivers the received data packet by sending the received data packet and the determined list of recipients to a third-party gateway (531-534), said third-party gateway delivering the received data packet to each of the recipients on the determined list (See Figure 5).

Regarding Claim 23, Horvitz discloses a method (See Figure 5) comprising:

- accessing a memory area (522) storing a notification received from a third-party content provider (531-534), said notification comprising routing information and content, said routing information including a broadcast alias;
- determining a list of recipients (See paras. 0005, 0036, 0161) associated with the broadcast alias to receive the stored notification; and
- effecting the delivery (from 504 to 508) of the received notification to each of the recipients on the determined list. (See paras. 0005, 0036, 0161).

Regarding Claim 24, Horvitz discloses effecting the delivery comprises

- transferring the received notification and the determined list of recipients to a third-party gateway (531-534) for delivering the received notification to each of the recipients on the determined list. (See paras. 0005, 0036, 0161).

Regarding Claim 25, Horvitz discloses accessing the memory area (522) includes receiving a data packet storing the notification.

Regarding Claim 26, Horvitz discloses accessing the memory area (522) comprises accessing the memory area storing the notification, said notification including time-sensitive content (stock price, traffic jam) (See para. 0158, 0168).

Regarding Claim 27, Horvitz discloses accessing the memory area (522) comprises accessing the memory area storing the notification, said notification including event-driven content (stock price, traffic jam) (See para. 0158, 0168).

Regarding Claim 28, Horvitz discloses the effecting the delivery of the received notification via one transport medium (e.g. email) (See paras. 0004, 0005).

Regarding Claim 29, Horvitz discloses that the transport mediums include one or more of the following: electronic mail, instant messaging, and mobile short-message-service messaging. (See paras. 0004, 0005).

Regarding Claim 30, Horvitz discloses accessing the memory area comprises

- accessing the memory area (522) storing the notification, said notification including content including one or more of the following: a daily news update, breaking news, a weather forecast, or a traffic report (stock price, traffic jam) (See para. 0158, 0168).

Regarding Claim 31, Horvitz discloses one computer-readable media (system in Figure 5) having computer-executable instructions (within 130) for performing the method of claim 23.

Regarding Claim 32, Horvitz discloses a method for processing a notification, said web service comprising: a memory area (522) storing a notification received from a third-party content provider (531-534), said notification comprising

- routing information and content (in context sources 522), said routing information including a broadcast alias;

Art Unit: 2163

- one or more computing devices (508) enabling delivery of the stored notification to a plurality of users based on the broadcast alias; and
- computer-executable instructions (within 130) executing on each of the computing devices to access the stored notification, determine a list of users (See paras 0005, 0036, 0161) associated with the broadcast alias for receiving the stored notification, and deliver the stored notification to the determined list of users (See Figure 5).

Regarding Claim 33, Horvitz discloses a computer-readable medium having stored thereon a data structure, said data structure being associated with an application programming interface, said data structure comprising:

- a broadcast list identifier (subscription identifier) (see para. 0161) associated with the broadcast alias; and
- a list of users (See paras 0005, 0036, 0161) associated with the broadcast list identifier.

Regarding Claim 34, Horvitz discloses a broadcast list table associating the broadcast list identifier (subscription identifier) (see para. 0161) inherently with a member table, said member table storing the list of users associated with the broadcast list identifier (See paras 0005, 0036, 0161).

Regarding Claim 35, Horvitz discloses that the memory area (522) stores the notification, said notification including time-sensitive content (stock price, traffic jam) (See para. 0158, 0168).

Regarding Claim 36, Horvitz discloses accessing the memory area (522) comprises accessing the memory area storing the notification, said notification including event-driven content (stock price, traffic jam) (See para. 0158, 0168).

Regarding Claim 37, Horvitz discloses that accessing the memory area (522) comprises accessing the memory area storing the notification, said notification including content including one or more of the following: a daily news update, breaking news, a weather forecast, or a traffic report (stock price, traffic jam) (See para. 0158, 0168).

Regarding Claim 38, Horvitz discloses that the computing devices execute the computer-executable instructions to deliver the stored notification by sending the stored notification and the determined list of users to a third-party gateway (531-534), said third-party gateway delivering the stored notification to each of the users on the determined list (See Figure 5 and paras 0005, 0036, 0161).

Conclusion

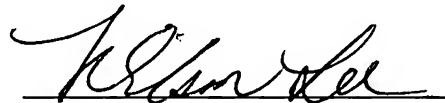
The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. Young (US 2003/0120785) discloses a message filtering.

Correspondence

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Examiner Wilson Lee whose telephone number is (571) 272-1824.

Papers related to the application may be submitted by facsimile transmission. Any transmission not to be considered an official response must be clearly marked "DRAFT". The official fax number is (571) 273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Wilson Lee', is written over a horizontal line.

Wilson Lee
Primary Examiner
U.S. Patent & Trademark Office

9/5/06